

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing for an injection procedure, the method comprising:

mounting a syringe comprising a distal end and a plunger on an injector comprising a piston;

sensing from an encoding device that the syringe is mounted on the injector and is an empty syringe;

in response to sensing the syringe, automatically advancing the piston of the injector to engage the plunger of the syringe and to advance the plunger to the distal end thereof to expel air from the syringe;

retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe; and advancing the piston to prime the syringe and a tube connected to the syringe.

2.-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of advancing the piston to expel fluid from the syringe.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of retracting the piston after the syringe is removed from the injector.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing for an injection procedure, the method comprising:

mounting a syringe comprising a distal end and a plunger on an injector comprising a piston;

sensing that the syringe is mounted on the injector;

automatically determining based on the sensing whether the syringe is an empty

syringe, a preloaded syringe or a prefilled syringe;

in response to sensing the syringe, automatically, advancing the piston of the injector to engage the plunger of the syringe;

automatically advancing the piston of the injector to advance the plunger to the distal end of the syringe if the syringe is an empty syringe;

automatically retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe if the syringe is an empty syringe; and

advancing the piston to prime the fluid path for the injection procedure.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the steps or acts of advancing and retracting are conducted automatically by the injector.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing for an injection procedure, the method comprising:

mounting a syringe comprising a distal end and a plunger on an injector comprising a piston;

advancing the piston of the injector to engage the plunger of the syringe and to advance the plunger to the distal end thereof;

retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe; and

advancing the piston to prime the syringe and a tube connected to the syringe, wherein the priming is based on a fluid volume of the tube.

12. – 13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the priming is based on a predetermined amount.

15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, further including advancing the

piston during the step of retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe, wherein the advancing decreases the amount of air aspirated into the syringe.

16. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further including advancing the piston during the step of retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe, wherein the advancing decreases the amount of air aspirated into the syringe.

17. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, further including advancing the piston during the step of retracting the piston to retract the plunger and aspirate fluid into the syringe, wherein the advancing decreases the amount of air aspirated into the syringe.